

4Q 2017 Update William Blair Low Duration Fund

OBJECTIVE

Current Income

CHARACTERISTICS

The Fund seeks to invest primarily in fixed income securities rated A- or higher. The Fund's duration tends to be consistent with an ultra-short bond fund.

WHY CONSIDER THIS FUND?

- Seeks to offer higher yields than cash instruments while maintaining a low duration
- Focuses on outperforming its benchmark through a security selection process that adheres to a time-tested, disciplined approach
- Managed by a tenured team with significant experience managing low duration strategies

EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

	Gross Expense	Net Expense
Class I	0.59	0.50
Class N	0.83	0.65

Expenses shown are as of the most recent prospectus. The Fund's Adviser has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to limit fund operating expenses until 4/30/18.

FUND FACTS AND STATISTICS¹

Total Net Assets (\$MM)	\$233
Number of Holdings	184
Trailing 1-Year Turnover (%)	108.7
Cash (%)**	6.5
Average Maturity (Years)	1.7
Duration	0.9

** Cash represents cash and any short-term or overnight investments held by the Fund.

30-DAY SEC YIELDS % (as of 12/31/17)

Class I	1.54
Class N	1.42

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE % (as of 12/31/17)

	QTR	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	Since Incep.
Class I (SI: 12/01/09)	0.16	0.91	0.91	0.87	0.67	1.18
Class N (SI: 12/01/09)	0.24	0.84	0.84	0.67	0.52	1.03
Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-Year U.S. Treasury Note Index ¹	0.01	0.57	0.57	0.49	0.38	0.42
Morningstar Ultrashort Bond Category ²	0.28	1.44	1.44	1.02	0.80	—

CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE %

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009†
Class I (SI: 12/01/09)	0.91	1.40	0.30	1.24	-0.47	2.96	1.99	1.89	-0.59
Class N (SI: 12/01/09)	0.84	1.16	0.01	1.20	-0.62	2.80	1.73	1.86	-0.60
Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-Year U.S. Treasury Note Index ¹	0.57	0.76	0.15	0.18	0.26	0.24	0.57	0.83	-0.15

† Since Fund's inception on 12/01/09 through 12/31/09.

Performance cited represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Returns shown assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate with market and economic conditions and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month-end performance information, please call +1 800 742 7272, or visit our Web site at www.williamblairfunds.com. Class N shares are available to the general public without a sales load. Class I shares are available only to investors who meet certain eligibility requirements.

MORNINGSTAR RATINGS AND RANKINGS*

	Overall	1Y	3Y	5Y	10Y
Class I Rating	★★★	—	★★★	★★★	—
Class N Rating	★★	—	★★	★★	—
Class I Percentile Ranking		82	64	62	—
Class N Percentile Ranking		85	75	79	—
# of Funds in Category		175	141	110	—

*Morningstar Rating[®]: The Morningstar Rating for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. **Morningstar Ranking:** Morningstar Percentile Rankings are based on the Fund's total return (excluding sales charge) relative to all the funds in the same Morningstar category, where 1 is the highest and 100 is the lowest percentile rank. Ratings and rankings are one measure of performance. Some of our Funds have experienced negative performance for the time periods shown. For the most current performance, please visit williamblairfunds.com.

TOP TEN HOLDINGS (%)^{3,4}

Company	Coupon/Maturity	% of Fund
Fannie Mae Pool	6.00% due 11/01/24	8.6
Fannie Mae Pool	5.50% due 12/01/41	2.9
Fannie Mae Pool	4.50% due 02/01/27	2.4
Fannie Mae Pool	6.00% due 01/01/42	2.3
Fannie Mae Pool	4.00% due 02/01/29	2.0
Freddie Mac Gold Pool	6.00% due 12/01/38	1.8
Fannie Mae Pool	7.00% due 12/01/37	1.7
BA Credit Card Trust	1.86% due 06/15/21	1.7
BMW Floorplan Master Owner Trust	1.98% due 07/15/20	1.6
Verizon Owner Trust 2017-3	1.77% due 04/20/22	1.5
Total Top 10		26.5

SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION (%)^{3,4,6}

Sector Type	Fund	Index ²
Developed Markets Credit	37.0	0.0
U.S. Agency Mortgage-Backed Pass Through	37.0	0.0
Asset-Backed Securities	19.4	0.0
Cash	6.5	0.0
U.S. Treasury	0.1	100.0

QUALITY DISTRIBUTION (%)^{3,4,5}

Credit Quality	Fund	Index ¹
U.S. Treasury	0.1	100.0
U.S. Agency	37.0	0.0
Cash	6.5	0.0
AAA	20.2	0.0
AA	9.8	0.0
A	26.4	0.0

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT



Christopher Vincent, CFA
Started in Industry: 1983
Education: M.B.A., Saint Louis Univ.; B.S., Univ of Missouri



Paul J. Sularz
Started in Industry: 1990
Education: M.B.A., Univ. of Chicago; B.A., Univ. of Illinois

- The Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-Year U.S. Treasury Note Index is comprised of a single U.S. Treasury Note issue purchased at the beginning of the month and held for a full month. Each month the index is rebalanced and the issue selected is the outstanding U.S. Treasury Note that matures closest to, but not beyond one year from the rebalancing date. It is not possible to directly invest in an unmanaged index.
- The Morningstar Ultrashort Bond Category represents the average annual composite performance of all mutual funds listed in the Ultrashort Bond Category by Morningstar.
- Top ten holdings are shown as % of total net assets. Investment type and credit quality diversification are shown as % of total investments which includes cash equivalents.
- Information about the Fund's holdings should not be considered investment advice. There is no guarantee that the Fund will continue to hold any one particular security or stay invested in any one particular sector. Holdings are subject to change at any time.
- The credit quality of securities in the Fund's portfolio and Index are derived from Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. In cases where the credit rating agencies have assigned different credit ratings to the same security, the higher rating is used. In cases where only one rating agency has assigned a credit rating to a security, that rating is used. Credit quality designations range from high (AAA to AA) to medium (A to BBB) to low (BB, B, CCC, CC to C). The lower the rating, the higher the probability of default. Securities rated D are in default.
- Credit is a sector categorization used by Bloomberg Barclays. The sector is comprised of SEC-registered, fixed-rate, investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated securities that meet the inclusion criteria of the U.S. Aggregate Index set forth by Bloomberg Barclays. The sector has two main components: Corporate and Non-Corporate. The corporate sectors are Industrial, Utility, and Finance, which include both U.S. and non-U.S. corporations. The non-corporate sectors are Sovereign, Supranational, Foreign Agency, and Foreign Local Government. All of the Fund's holdings are corporate holdings. Over 75% of the Credit sector's composition are corporate sector bonds. The Developed Market Credit category is comprised of securities issued by issuers domiciled outside the emerging markets.
Source: William Blair, Blackrock Solutions

Risks: The Fund's returns will vary, and you could lose money by investing in the Fund. The Fund's investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies or instrumentalities may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States and may differ in the degree of support provided by the U.S. Government. As interest rates rise, bond prices will fall and bond funds become more volatile. The Fund is subject to credit risk. The Fund's net asset value and total return may be adversely affected by the inability of the issuers of the Fund's securities to make interest payments or payment at maturity. International investing involves special risk considerations, including currency fluctuations, lower liquidity, economic and political risk. Investing in emerging markets can increase these risks, including higher volatility and lower liquidity. The Fund's investments in collateralized mortgage obligations are subject to prepayment and extension risk. Prepayment of high interest rate mortgage-backed securities during times of declining interest rates will tend to lower the return of the Fund and may even result in losses to the Fund if the prepaid securities were acquired at a premium. Slower prepayments during periods of rising interest rates may increase the duration of the Fund's mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities and reduce their value. This is not a money market fund. Rule 144A securities are not registered for resale in the general securities market and may be classified as illiquid. It may not be possible to sell or otherwise dispose of illiquid securities both at the price and within a time period deemed desirable by the Fund.

Please carefully consider the Fund's investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. This and other information is contained in the Fund's prospectus, which you may obtain by calling +1 800 742 7272. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. Investing includes the risk of loss.

This content is for informational and educational purposes only and not intended as investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Investment advice and recommendations can be provided only after careful consideration of an investor's objectives, guidelines, and restrictions.

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